

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AS-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02 MCT-01 /059 W

-----033851 220254Z /72

R 210900Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1382

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PINT, RP

SUBJECT: PRIMITIVO MIJARES' SON MURDERED

1. SUMMARY: RECENT KIDNAP-MURDER OF MANUEL MIJARES HAS REFUELD SPECULATION REGARDING WHEREABOUTS AND ACTIVITIES OF CONTROVERSIAL FATHER (PRIMITIVO MIJARES), SELF-EXILED MARCOS OPPOSITIONIST WHO REPORTEDLY MISSING SINCE JANUARY. END SUMMARY.

2. PRESS REPORTED JUNE 18 DISCOVERY OF BODY OF MANUEL MIJARES, 16, WHO APPARENTLY HAD BEEN STABBED TO DEATH. MANUEL WAS SON OF CONTROVERSIAL SELF-EXILED JOURNALIST PRIMITIVO MIJARES AND JUDGE PRISCILLA MIJARES. PRESS REPORTED FOLLOWING DAY (JUNE 19) THAT POLICE HAD ARRESTED FOUR SUSPECTS BUT NAMES AND CIRCUMSTANCES OF ARREST WITHHELD.

2. ACCORDING TO PRESS, JUDGE MIJARES FIRST CONTACTED BULLETIN JUNE 16 REQUESTING ANNOUNCEMENT OF MANUEL "BOYET" MIJARES' DISAPPEARANCE. SHE SAID HER SON LAST SEEN AFTERNOON MAY 20 AND THAT SHE RECEIVED MAY 31 - JUNE 3 ANONYMOUS PHONE CALLS DEMANDING INITIALLY P2000000, THEN "ANY AMOUNT THE JUDGE COULD AFFORD." CALLER IDENTIFIED HIMSELF AS A MEMBER BANGSA MORO ARMY. BULLETIN TODAY NEWS EDITOR RECEIVED CALL JUNE 17 FROM NBI (NATIONAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION) REGARD-  
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ING BODY OF UNIDENTIFIED YOUTH WHICH HAD BEEN IN THEIR POSSESSION SINCE MAY 31, WHEN DISCOVERED IN TAYTAY, RIZAL, BY CYCLIST.

4. BULLETIN TODAY MADE NO MENTION OF MANUEL'S RELATIONSHIP TO PRIMITIVO MIJARES, FORMER MARCOS INTIMATE TURNED VITRIOLIC OPPOSITIONIST, WHO DROPPED OUT OF SIGHT SEVERAL

MONTHS AGO. DAILY EXPRESS ARTICLE REPORTED VICTIM WAS SON OF PRIMITIVO MIJARES, AND ALSO THAT THREATS HAD BEEN MADE RECENTLY AGAINST JUDGE MIJARES, SUPPOSEDLY RELATED TO RECENT CONVICTION IN HER COURT.

5. BULLETIN TODAY COLUMNIST BIGORNIA COMMENTED JUNE 20 ON "FORTUITOUS CAPTURE AND ARREST OF THE ALLEGED KILLERS" WHICH HE SAID SERVES TO DISPEL POSSIBLE LINK TO DISAPPEARANCE OF PRIMITIVO MIJARES EARLIER THIS YEAR, WHICH SOME US-BASED OPPOSITIONAIST ATTRIBUTE TO MARCOS REGIME FOUL PLAY. ACCORDING TO BIGORNIA, ENTIRE AFFAIR SIMPLE KIDNAPPING WITH "LUST FOR MONEY" MOTIVATION.

6. JUNE 21 DAILY EXPRESS CARRIED AN APPEAL OF PRISCILLA MIJARES TO FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS TO BE OBJECTIVE AND NOT SENSATIONALIZE THE KIDNAP-MURDER OF SON. SHE TOLD PRESS, "THE CASE OF MY SON IS PURELY A POLICY STORY, THERE'S NOTHING POLITICAL ABOUT IT." SHE ALSO THANKED PRESIDENT MARCOS FOR THE SWIFT ACTION OF THE POLICE AND STATED THAT POLITICAL ACTIVITIES OF PRIMITIVO MIJARES ARE ENTIRELY HIS OWN.

7. COMMENT: SO FAR GUIDED MANILA PRESS HAS PLAYED UP QUICK ARREST OF SUSPECTS AND DOWNPLAYED FACT THAT MANUEL SON OF PRIMITIVO. WE ANTICIPATE MURDER WILL FUEL SPECULATION HERE AND IN PHILIPPINE COMMUNITY IN US REGARDING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DISAPPEARANCE OF ELDER MIJARES, WHOSE WHEREABOUTS STILL UNKNOWN. RUMORS CIRCULATING LOCALLY POSTULATE; A) THAT MIJARES, WHO REPORTEDLYHAD BEEN LIVING WITH ANOTHER WOMAN IN US, ENGINEERED KIDNAPPING TO WREST MONEY FROM CONJUGAL PROPERTY NOW IN HANDS OF WIFE; OR B) THAT KIDNAPPING WORK OF MARCOS AGENTS DESIGNED TO FLUSH MIJARES OUT OF HIDING.

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## Message Attributes

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